

## Soldiers

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The station's outer walls and two outer rooms were damaged and all of the windows were blown out from the explosion. Computers and furniture were also damaged from the shock and a sizable crater was left in front of the station.

Work began immediately to start repairing the damage caused by the explosion.

"We wanted to give the Mosul community the message that the police will not stop functioning," Stevenson

said. "This will also tell terrorists that the police will not be deterred."

The Commander's Emergency Response Program, which is appropriated by Congress to fund humanitarian projects, allowed Task Force Olympia Commander Brig. Gen. Carter Ham to authorize the use of \$25,000 to repair the station.

"On Jan. 31, we learned that there are many people opposed to the progress in Iraq," Ham said at the ceremony.

"This police station will stand here now as a memory to those police officers who sacrificed for all of the people of Mosul," he added.

A local contractor, Wameedh and

Oday of Mosul, was awarded the contract for reconstruction and completed the project a few days before the date specified in the contract. The reconstruction was completed entirely by local workers.

Capt. Dan Kuecker, Project Purchasing Officer for Task Force Olympia, said by using local contractors, the coalition directly supports the rebuilding of Iraq's infrastructure. It provides work for the local businesses and it puts money into the Iraqi economy.

Renovations included clearing debris, repairing the station's structure, replacing windows and doors and repainting.

In response to the attack, security precautions have been implemented, including the construction of an outer concrete fence reinforced with steel.

The civilian traffic flow was also modified.

Officers are placed outside and closed captioned television security systems have been installed to prevent similar attacks from occurring in the future.

Despite being in a neighborhood with high crime rates and having been attacked twice since Jan. 31, the station has remained staffed to show the community that it's trying to maintain a safe environment for Mosul

"Back in May, the citizens had a lot

of distrust in the police department," Stevenson said. "We hope to build their confidence by demonstrating the police are there to help the community."

"While its unfortunate there have been a lot of wounded police officers, they are fighting for a good cause," Mosul Chief of Police, Mohamad Barhawee, said at the ceremony.

"The people of Mosul can be very proud of the chief and all of their police officers who worked so bravely for all of us," Ham said.

"Our message to the terrorists is that the police will stand strong and we'll stand beside them. And they will succeed."

## Display

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As well as different Fort Lewis units being represented, JROTC, Reserve Officer Training Corps, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts participated.

"All the colors symbolize our nation and the pride and history we have as a nation," Alexander said.

The ceremony has taken place for 20 years and keeps the same spirit as when it started, said retired Army Col. Isabelle J. Swartz, color guard coordinator for the event.

"This is a patriotic ceremony," Swartz said. "It's an event getting everyone together to feel patriotic."

This year's ceremony couldn't have come at a better time, said Brig. Gen. Michael A. Dunn, commanding general, Western Regional Medical Command and Madigan Army Medical Center.

"This is a very meaningful time in the life of our country to mass these colors," he said.

Hopefully, the massing will be around for many more years, said Mitchell.

"We're here to show we're behind our country," he said. "We've done this year after year and will continue."



Spc. Steven J. Schneider

Participants from various organizations wait for their colors to be announced Sunday during the 20th annual Massing of the Colors ceremony at Soldiers' Field House.

## Youth worker

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For some children Weatherspoon was a major reason they went to the youth center and some have even commented that there's no longer a reason for them to come back.

"They say they don't want to come back because the memories make it too hard to return, but we're going to talk to them and give them time. I know Walter wouldn't want any of us to stop doing what we're doing. Just know that he's right there," said Kuh-

*"They say they don't want to come back because the memories make it too hard to return..."*

**John Kuhmer**

mer.

Services will be held today at 1 p.m. in the Mountain View Funeral Home Valley Chapel located at 4100 Steilacoom Blvd. South West in Tacoma. Donations are also being accepted for Weatherspoon's family at the North Fort Youth Center front desk.

## Reporter

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"Since 2000, I had been covering the Stryker Brigade, which is really the Army's latest and greatest new technology. So, before coming to Iraq, I had a good handle on how to tell the story," Gilbert said. "Overall, the Soldiers were great and very receptive to my presence even when I had negative news to report."

The Iraqis were receptive to Gilbert's presence, too. During a feast for tribal leaders and Soldiers at a small Muslim village, an Iraqi official filled Gilbert's plate

continuously with veal and bread as a way of showing his appreciation.

"Although the man did not understand that I was from the state of Washington and not Washington, D.C., he was very excited to have me at his table. He (the Iraqi leader) said, 'See, we like Americans. We are not all bad,'" Gilbert said. "He was very persistent that I tell this story to the American public."

Stryker Brigade officials were so impressed with Gilbert's ability to tell the story that they gave him an open invitation to return if he ever desired to.

On Gilbert's final night in Mosul, the Stryker Brigade recognized his commit-

ment as a wartime correspondent with a certificate of appreciation and a 2nd Infantry Division shoulder patch. Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, Commander of Task Force Olympia, a part of Fort Lewis-based 1st Corps, presented Gilbert with an Iraqi wall flag for his work here in Mosul. The flag was personalized with his name and the dates of his deployment embroidered in yellow.

"Mike Gilbert's stay in Iraq is an excellent example of a successful embed," Piek said. "He made the same sacrifices the Soldiers do and went on the same missions while staying just far enough away to remain objective in his reporting."



